

(Continuation of 10/277,967)  
Preliminary Amendment dated January 8, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (new): A method for activating a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor in a subject comprising administering to the subject curcumin or a curcuminoid.

Claim 10 (new): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor is a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\gamma$ .

Claim 11 (new): A method for preventing and/or treating Insulin Resistance Syndrome, which comprises administrating to a subject a composition comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of curcumin and a curcuminoid as an active agent.

Claim 12 (new): A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes mellitus, which comprises administrating to a subject a composition comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of curcumin and a curcuminoid as an active agent.

Claim 13 (new): A method for preventing and/or treating obesity or visceral fat obesity, which comprises administering to a subject a composition comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of curcumin and a curcuminoid as an active agent.

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Claim 14 (new): The method according to Claim 11, wherein said composition is in the form of a food or a drink.

Claim 15 (new): The method according to Claim 12, wherein said composition is in the form of a food or a drink.

Claim 16 (new): The method according to Claim 13, wherein said composition is in the form of a food or a drink.

Claim 17 (new): The method according to Claim 11, wherein said composition is in the form of a pharmaceutical.

Claim 18 (new): The method according to Claim 12, wherein said composition is in the form of a pharmaceutical.

Claim 19 (new): The method according to Claims 13, wherein said composition is in the form of a pharmaceutical.

Claim 20 (new): The method according to Claim 11, wherein said subject is a domestic animal or pet.

Claim 21 (new): The method according to Claim 12, wherein said subject is a domestic animal or pet.

Claim 22 (new): The method according to Claim 13, wherein said subject is a domestic animal or pet.